

**CITY OF BARABOO
POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

MINUTES FOR: Regular Meeting on August 15, 2022.

The Baraboo Police & Fire Commission (PFC) met on this date at the Baraboo Municipal Building, 101 South Boulevard, (C205), Baraboo. The meeting was opened at 3:30pm by PFC President Kujak. A notice of this meeting was posted on August 12, 2022.

Roll call found Commissioners Getschmann, Hollenback, Kluge, Kujak and Viney were in attendance. Others present during the meeting were Police Chief Sinden and Fire Chief Stieve.

Compliance with the open meeting law was noted by Kujak.

Kujak made a request to have the AGENDA be approved. Getschmann made a Motion to approve the Agenda; Viney offered a second, motion carried 5-0.

Kujak made a request to have the MINUTES of July 18, July 22 (Open & Closed Sessions) and August 1, 2022 be approved. Kluge made a Motion to approve the Agendas; Getschmann offered a second, motion carried 5-0.

There were no citizens present to speak under 'PUBLIC COMMENTS'.

Under 'ACTION ITEMS', Chief Stieve made a request of the PFC to decertify any and all prior Baraboo Paid-on-Call Fire Fighter eligibility lists, and to certify a new Baraboo Paid-on-Call Fire Fighter eligibility list as of August 15, 2022. He presented a list containing the proposed (7) Fire Fighters names of:

Parker Brehm	Kortnee Carroll
Jackson Clements	Ethan Mengelt
Jesse Prater	Sawyer Schmitt
Kody Sellner	

Stieve also noted that if these individuals would be hired in the near future, they would bring the Department staffing to 34-35 members. Further that this would be at a normal staffing number, adding that the Department does not have any top end limit for Department members. Getschmann made a Motion to approve the Agenda; Hollenback offered a second, motion carried 4-0 with Viney abstaining.

Under 'INFORMATIONAL ITEMS':

Chief Sinden noted that the Department is seeing some 'head hunting' of their members from other law enforcement agencies in the area. This is a troubling process and the City and Department are trying to retain their good employees within the agency. Wages are the drawing factor and with the City's financial situation, this is a real problem. There is certainly room for improvement and need, and that is a budgeting issue. Regarding the SRO status between the City and the School District, it is yet hopeful that an answer can be found to cover the wages (est \$150K) of both SROs. The School District budget is not yet locked in to report on. That answer will be coming in the next 2 months. While the Department is seeing a 3.7% decrease in overall calls to date, they are seeing increases in traffic citations and general arrests. Sinden noted that the Department is operating with three (3) less staff members (Chief, 1 Patrol Officer and a Clerk), which has a daily impact for the community served. The prior authorized sworn staff level was 29, and currently it is 27. For this month he reports they have no troubling 'Use of Force' investigations to report on. The Department is engaging in continued 'Rapid Response to Critical Incident

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Training'. Currently they are working it through the High School, but there are plans to do it also in the Middle School and at some point the Elementary Schools. He briefly spoke on the 2023 Budget and as to the projected \$370K reduction the Department is facing. Chief Stieve noted the Fire Department reduction is approximately \$71K in the upcoming budget. Sinden noted that if they can secure the funding for the two School Resource Officers, they are hopeful to maintain staffing levels.

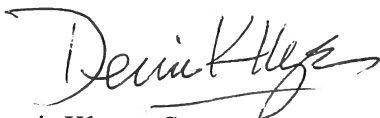
Chief Stieve presented letters from two Baraboo Fire Fighters (Carrie Cummings & Justin Riley) that have tendered letters of Resignation in the last 30 days. He is hopeful that in the new eligibility list that they will find replacements for these vacancies. Kevin stated that he will send a link to the PFC Members to view his monthly report as submitted to City Council. Stieve also called attention to the PFC as to the Retirement gathering for BPD Fire Fighters Steve Pointon & Thomas Clark on August 23rd.

Kujak provided a brief update as to the ongoing search for a Baraboo Police Chief, clarified where we are in process (Job Description & Offer has been posted as of August 11). He noted that our 'goal' to get the notice posted was on or before August 15, and we accomplished that. All of the desired posting sites have been accomplished as of today. Some clarity from the City regarding the pay scale approved was identified, and he will speak to the City Administrator how that should be handled. He then discussed the plans for the August 17th 'listening session' at City Hall. He was making the final arrangements for having the building open by 5:30pm, and hosting the meeting from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. He read from script what he would be explaining to the attendees at the meeting. It was agreed that after the August 17th meeting (Listening Session), a Special Meeting may be needed to address their findings.

Under 'COMMUNICATIONS', Kluge advised there was only the League's monthly magazine.

Kujak made a request for an ADJOURNMENT: Viney offered a Motion for adjournment; Getschmann offered a second. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis Kluge, Secretary

Approved by PFC on September 19, 2022

Cc: City Clerk